

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

MARCH 2011 – ISSUE 43

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. Affordable Housing: Communicate to Build Community Acceptance

With reports from around the country that community resistance to affordable housing development is increasing, a new report on how to change public opinion on the issue makes for important reading.

It's called "What Works and Why: Affordable Housing Communications Campaigns 2000-2010" and it was published by Partnership for Sustainable Communities®

The report examines efforts by advocates and government agencies to build public and political support for affordable housing developments and funding and to counteract the negative attitudes toward affordable housing found in many communities. It describes 15 campaigns from New York to North Carolina, with reproductions of some of the advertisements used in those campaigns.

This report was sponsored by the Marin Community Housing Action Initiative, a collaborative organization in Marin County, California, with support from Greenbelt Alliance, Marin Community Foundation, the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California. To view the report click [here](#).

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2. EPA Funding for Puget Sound Watershed Protection & Restoration

Commerce is one of several state agencies selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding to implement priority work consistent with the 2020 Action Agenda for the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. Several Washington State agencies were selected as Lead Organizations (LO), to coordinate up to six-year efforts to develop and implement strategies in the four areas of emphasis:

- Watershed protection and restoration (LOs - Departments of Ecology and Commerce);
- Marine and nearshore protection and restoration (LO - Department of Fish & Wildlife and DNR);
- Toxics and nutrients prevention, reduction and control (LO - Department of Ecology); and
- Pathogen prevention, reduction, and control (LOs - Departments of Health and Ecology).

For the first year of the LO strategies, EPA allocated \$12 million divided equally among the LOs, supplemented with a State match of \$12 million. The total funds over the six-year period could be up to \$192 million plus the required State match. The level of funding after the first year is in part dependent on demonstration by the selected LOs to EPA and Congress that funds can be expeditiously and appropriately expended with significant measureable results. Full text of proposals for each area of emphasis can be found on the Puget Sound Partnership website: http://www.psp.wa.gov/EPA_funding_FY10.php.

Commerce and Ecology will use EPA funding for watershed protection and restoration in four activity areas: Watershed Characterization, Land Use and Working Lands, Strategies to Manage Stormwater and Strategies for Protection and Restoration. Commerce is focusing on Land Use and Working Lands and will provide funding through sub-awards to local governments to reduce conversions of important undeveloped rural and resource lands, and to promote efficient growth within existing urban growth areas (UGA). Projects will be selected based on the ability of the sub-award sponsor to effectively implement watershed-based land use plans, using watershed characterization information and innovative market mechanisms and incentives. A watershed technical team will assist in the interpretation and application of watershed data and information.

Work is underway to refine subaward grant decision-making criteria and the application process in the next few months, with a Request for Proposals (RFP)

expected to go out in May. The watershed technical team has also been established and will provide input to strategic investments, priorities and criteria for selecting projects.

Contracts for successful applicants to the RFP process are expected to be executed in July. The timing and amount of second year funds from EPA are still being debated in Congress, so the process needs to be flexible enough to respond to federal actions whenever they occur.

For more information, contact Doug Peters, Commerce NEP Coordinator, at doug.peters@commerce.wa.gov or 360-725-3046.

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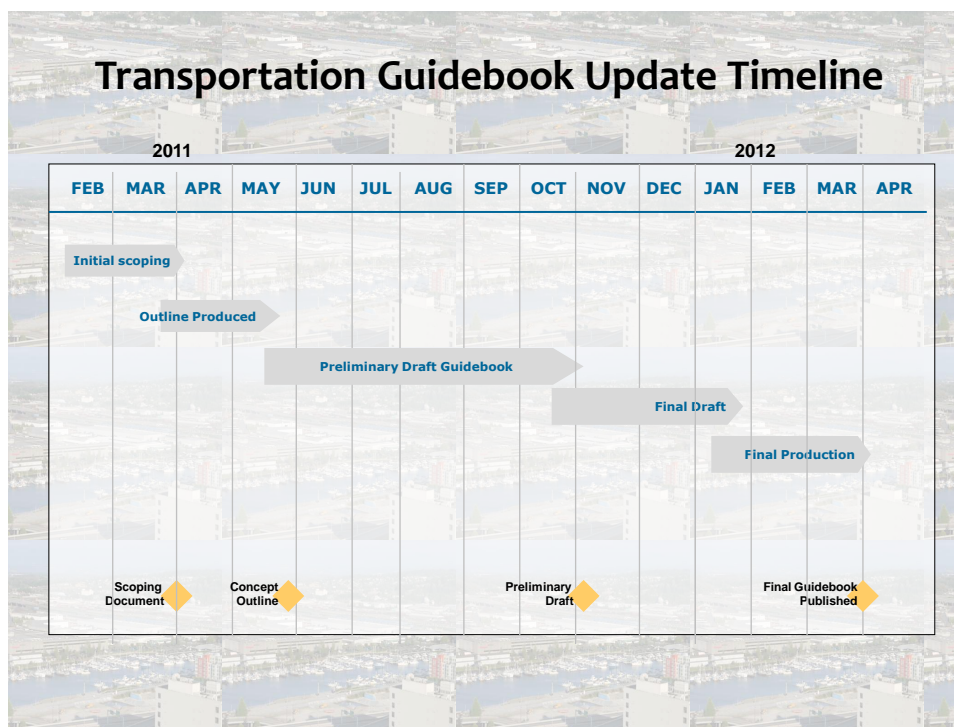
3. Commerce Begins Update to the Transportation Element Guidebook

Over the next twelve months, Commerce will be updating our Transportation Element Guidebook. This is the first complete overhaul of our transportation planning guidebook since 1993. The new guidebook is funded in part from statewide Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds and in part by a grant from the Department of Energy, as a part of a [new state energy strategy](#). The new guidebook will cover all of the amendments to the transportation planning statutes since 1993. It will integrate our [1993 guidebook](#), our [guidebook on state transportation facilities](#) and our guidebook on [pedestrian and nonmotorized transportation](#).

Another goal of the project is to create a document that is more accessible, concise, easier to use, and easier to update. We expect the document to be published on the web for ease in updating, and to provide easy access to downloadable files and other links.

Project Timeline

Right now, we are looking for input from guidebook users, including local government practitioners, planning commission members and elected officials, interested citizens and state and federal agency staff. Commerce is conducting initial outreach and scoping through March 2011 to ensure the final guidance meets the needs of Washington communities. We plan to release a scope of work that will guide the development of the final product. As we are developing guidebook chapters, we will post drafts on the project web site for review and comment. We plan on having the full draft finished this fall and the final document ready in April, 2012.



We will be seeking input on an on-going basis. To receive regular updates on progress, sign of for our list serve. More information is available on our project Web site.

[Go to the Project Web Site](#)

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4. Amendment to State Rules Changes the Wetland Delineation Manual

State laws require that wetlands protected under the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act be delineated using a manual that is developed by Ecology and adopted into rules (RCW 36.70A.175; RCW 90.58.380). The Department of Ecology adopted a wetland delineation manual in 1997 (WAC 173-22-080) that was based on the original 1987 Corps of Engineers manual and subsequent Regulatory Guidance Letters.

During the last few years the Army Corps of Engineers has updated and expanded their delineation manual with regional supplements. To maintain consistency between the state and federal delineations of wetlands, Ecology has repealed WAC 173-22-080 (the state delineation manual) and replaced it with a revision of WAC 173-22-035 that states delineations should be done according to the currently approved federal manual and supplements. **The changes were effective March 14, 2011.**

The latest federal delineation manual and its supplements should now be used to delineate all wetlands in the state including wetlands outside of shoreline jurisdiction.

You can find the federal delineation manual and its supplements as well as answers to frequently asked questions about these changes on Ecology's Wetland Delineation web page:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/delineation.html>.

To see updated rule language go to: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/SMA2010/1007.html>.

If you have any questions about wetland delineation, contact:

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